

A RESOLUTION to recognize the National Black Presbyterian
Caucus.

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the members of this legislative body to honor those organizations whose praiseworthy efforts contribute to the enhancement of our communities; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, which will hold its 28th annual meeting March 23-25, 1995, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the conference is hosted by the Greater Memphis Area Chapter of the Caucus, comprised of members from the African American Presbyterian congregations in Memphis and surrounding areas, including those from: Bethel, Parkway Gardens, and St. Andrews, in Memphis; Grace in Dyersburg; and Keeling/Greenleaf in Mason. A very recent addition to the group is New Life Community Presbyterian Church, a new church development of the Presbytery of Memphis, located in the Whitehaven community; and

WHEREAS, the conference's theme is "NBPC Walking with Africans: A Healing Journey." Persons within the Presbyterian Church are being challenged to not only walk with Africa, but to reflect upon the rich heritage and culture of Africa and African Americans, gleaning alternative approaches to diverse and complex situations to heal the brokenness in society. To this end, several workshops will explore such topics as: Black Presbyterians and the Haitian Connection, resourced by Willie Dell, Richmond, Virginia; Health Risks for African Americans, Bernelyn Carey; Mandela/South Africa - Our Heritage, Vera Swann, Atlanta, Georgia; Our African Heritage and Spirituality, Rita Dixon, Louisville, Kentucky; Presbyterian Polity, Pat

Turner, Louisville, Kentucky; and Teens/Violence and the Justice System, A.C. Wharton, Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with its annual conference, the National Black Presbyterian Caucus will honor one of its own, Dr. Gayraud Wilmore, through its Ecumenical Symposium. Dr. Wilmore, a Presbyterian clergyman, theologian, educator and author, has dedicated the greater part of his life in Christian ministry to the cause of racial justice in the church and society; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the faculty of a number of theological institutions, including the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Boston University Divinity School, New York Theological Seminary, Colgate Rochester Theological Seminary, and the Interdenominational Theological Center; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate Dr. Wilmore's contributions, an array of his peers will be in Memphis to make presentations focusing on his life and work. Among those scheduled to appear during four plenary sessions are: The Rev. Bryant George, fellow clergy and co-worker in denominational circles; Dr. Delores S. Williams, Associate Professor of Theology and Culture, Union Theological Seminary, New York City; Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., Presiding Bishop Fourth Episcopal District - Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Shreveport, Louisiana; and Dr. Renita Weems, Assistant Professor for Hebrew and Bible, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville. Dr. James Cone, noted theologian and writer will be the speaker at the Elder Hawkins Banquet on Saturday evening, March 25, 1995; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to recognize those religious organizations that endeavor to enhance the quality of life for all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and recognize the National Black Presbyterian Caucus for its 28 years of meritorious service to the citizens of this state, and extend to its members our best wishes for many more successful years of service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.